

1. A method comprising:

receiving an indication of a screen sharing condition from a remote device;

receiving data from a viewing device; and

5 hosting a screen sharing session between the remote device and the viewing device, wherein capabilities associated with the screen sharing session are based on the screen sharing condition.

10 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the indication comprises an indication of an alarm condition in the remote device.

15 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the alarm condition comprises a problem with the remote device.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the indication comprises timing data.

20 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the indication is received as a series of pings output by the remote device.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the pings decrease in frequency over time.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the data received 5 from the viewing device identifies the viewing device and the remote device.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein hosting comprises determining an extent to which the viewing device is 10 permitted to share a screen of the remote device based on one or more predetermined rules.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein:  
the indication of a screen sharing condition comprises 15 a state of the remote device; and  
hosting comprises determining an extent to which the viewing device is permitted to share a screen of the remote device based on the state of the remote device.

20 10. The method of claim 1, wherein hosting comprises transmitting information associated with the screen sharing session between the remote device and the viewing device.

11. The method of claim 1, wherein hosting comprises transferring a file between the remote device and the viewing device.

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12. The method of claim 1, wherein information associated with the screen sharing session is transmitted using HTTP.

10 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the information is encrypted.

14. The method of claim 1, wherein hosting comprises transmitting graphics changes between the remote device and 15 the viewing device, the graphics changes comprising only portions of graphics on the remote device that are changed.

15. The method of claim 1, wherein hosting comprises storing, in an audit log, information relating to the 20 screen sharing session.

16. The method of claim 1, wherein hosting comprises:

making a session key available to the remote device and to the viewing device, the session key providing access to the screen sharing session;

receiving session keys from both the remote device and  
5 the viewing device; and

establishing the screen sharing session in response to receiving the session keys.

17. The method of claim 16, wherein the session keys  
10 are made available by providing the session keys directly to the remote device and to the viewing device.

18. The method of claim 16, wherein the session keys  
are made available by posting the session keys on a Web  
15 page.

19. The method of claim 1, wherein hosting comprises changing capabilities associated with the screen sharing session dynamically in response to a change in the screen  
20 sharing condition.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein changing

comprises terminating the screen sharing session or reducing an amount of control over the remote device provided via the screen sharing session.

5 21. A method comprising:

outputting an indication to a host device that a screen sharing condition has occurred; and

establishing a screen sharing session via the host device, the screen sharing session comprising:

10 receiving user inputs via the host device; and providing graphics changes to the host device.

22. The method of claim 21, wherein the indication comprises an alarm condition indicative of a problem.

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23. The method of claim 21, wherein the indication comprises time data.

24. The method of claim 21, wherein the screen sharing session is established by:

20 obtaining a session key made available by the host device; and

providing the session key to the host device.

25. The method of claim 21, wherein information relating to the screen sharing session is transmitted via 5 the host device using HTTP.

26. The method of claim 21, wherein the user inputs comprise mouse data and keyboard data and the graphics changes comprise updates that occurred since transmitting a 10 previous graphics change.

27. A method comprising:  
receiving an indication from a remote device that a screen sharing condition has occurred; and  
15 establishing a screen sharing session with the remote device via a host device;  
wherein all communications with the remote device associated with the screen sharing session are via the host device.

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28. The method of claim 27, wherein the indication comprises an alarm condition indicative of a problem.

29. The method of claim 27, wherein the indication comprises time data.

5 30. The method of claim 27, wherein the screen sharing session is established by:

obtaining a session key made available by the host device; and

providing the session key to the host device.

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31. The method of claim 1, further comprising generating a report relating to the screen sharing session.

32. A machine-readable medium that stores executable 15 instructions that cause a machine to:

receive an indication of a screen sharing condition from a remote device;

receive data from a viewing device; and

host a screen sharing session between the remote 20 device and the viewing device, wherein capabilities associated with the screen sharing session are based on the screen sharing condition.

33. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the indication comprises an indication of an alarm condition in the remote device.

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34. The machine-readable medium of claim 33, wherein the alarm condition comprises a problem with the remote device.

10 35. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the indication comprises timing data.

15 36. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the indication is received as a series of pings output by the remote device.

37. The machine-readable medium of claim 36, wherein the pings decrease in frequency over time.

20 38. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein the data received from the viewing device identifies the viewing device and the remote device.

39. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein  
hosting comprises determining an extent to which the  
viewing device is permitted to share a screen of the remote  
5 device based on one or more predetermined rules.

40. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein:  
the indication of a screen sharing condition comprises  
a state of the remote device; and  
10 hosting comprises determining an extent to which the  
viewing device is permitted to share a screen of the remote  
device based on the state of the remote device.

41. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein  
15 hosting comprises transmitting information associated with  
the screen sharing session between the remote device and  
the viewing device.

42. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein  
20 hosting comprises transferring a file between the remote  
device and the viewing device.

43. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein information associated with the screen sharing session is transmitted using HTTP.

5 44. The machine-readable medium of claim 43, wherein the information is encrypted.

10 45. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein hosting comprises transmitting graphics changes between the remote device and the viewing device, the graphics changes comprising only portions of graphics on the remote device that are changed.

15 46. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein hosting comprises storing, in an audit log, information relating to the screen sharing session.

47. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein hosting comprises:

20 making a session key available to the remote device and to the viewing device, the session key providing access to the screen sharing session;

receiving session keys from both the remote device and the viewing device; and

establishing the screen sharing session in response to receiving the session keys.

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48. The machine-readable medium of claim 47, wherein the session keys are made available by providing the session keys directly to the remote device and to the viewing device.

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49. The machine-readable medium of claim 47, wherein the session keys are made available by posting the session keys on a Web page.

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50. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein hosting comprises directing communications transmitted during the screen sharing session to one of multiple hosts.

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51. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, wherein hosting comprises changing capabilities associated with the screen sharing session dynamically in response to a change in the screen sharing condition.

52. The machine-readable medium of claim 51, wherein  
changing comprises terminating the screen sharing session  
or reducing an amount of control over the remove device  
5 provided via the screen sharing session.

53. A machine-readable medium that stores executable  
instructions that cause a machine to:

10 output an indication to a host device that a screen  
sharing condition has occurred; and

establish a screen sharing session via the host  
device, the screen sharing session comprising:

receiving user inputs via the host device; and  
providing graphics changes to the host device.

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54. The machine-readable medium of claim 53, wherein  
the indication comprises an alarm condition indicative of a  
problem.

20 55. The machine-readable medium of claim 53, wherein  
the indication comprises time data.

56. The machine-readable medium of claim 53, wherein  
the screen sharing session is established by:

obtaining a session key made available by the host  
device; and

5 providing the session key to the host device.

57. The machine-readable medium of claim 53, wherein  
information relating to the screen sharing session is  
transmitted via the host device using HTTP.

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58. The machine-readable medium of claim 53, wherein  
the user inputs comprise mouse data and keyboard data and  
the graphics changes comprise updates that occurred since  
transmitting a previous graphics change.

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59. A machine-readable medium that stores executable  
instructions that cause a machine to:

receive an indication from a remote device that a  
screen sharing condition has occurred; and

20 establish a screen sharing session with the remote  
device via the host device;

wherein all communications with the remote device

associated with the screen sharing session are via the host device.

60. The machine-readable medium of claim 59, wherein  
5 the indication comprises an alarm condition indicative of a problem.

61. The machine-readable medium of claim 59, wherein the indication comprises time data.

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62. The machine-readable medium of claim 59, wherein the screen sharing session is established by:

obtaining a session key made available by the host device; and

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providing the session key to the host device.

63. The machine-readable medium of claim 32, further comprising executable instructions to generate a report relating to the screen sharing session.

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64. An apparatus comprising circuitry to:

receive an indication of a screen sharing condition

from a remote device;  
receive data from a viewing device; and  
host a screen sharing session between the remote  
device and the viewing device, wherein capabilities  
5 associated with the screen sharing session are based on the  
screen sharing condition.

65. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the indication  
comprises an indication of an alarm condition in the remote  
10 device.

66. The apparatus of claim 65, wherein the alarm  
condition comprises a problem with the remote device.

15 67. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the indication  
comprises timing data.

68. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the indication  
is received as a series of pings output by the remote  
20 device.

69. The apparatus of claim 68, wherein the pings

decrease in frequency over time.

70. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the data received from the viewing device identifies the viewing 5 device and the remote device.

71. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein hosting comprises determining an extent to which the viewing device is permitted to share a screen of the remote device based 10 on one or more predetermined rules.

72. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein:  
the indication of a screen sharing condition comprises a state of the remote device; and  
15 hosting comprises determining an extent to which the viewing device is permitted to share a screen of the remote device based on the state of the remote device.

73. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein hosting 20 comprises transmitting information associated with the screen sharing session between the remote device and the viewing device.

74. The method of claim 1, wherein hosting comprises directing communications transmitted during the screen sharing session to one of multiple hosts.

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75. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein hosting comprises transferring a file between the remote device and the viewing device.

10 76. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein information associated with the screen sharing session is transmitted using HTTP.

15 77. The apparatus of claim 76, wherein the information is encrypted.

78. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein hosting comprises transmitting graphics changes between the remote device and the viewing device, the graphics changes comprising only portions of graphics on the remote device 20 that are changed.

79. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein hosting comprises storing, in an audit log, information relating to the screen sharing session.

5 80. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein hosting comprises:

making a session key available to the remote device and to the viewing device, the session key providing access to the screen sharing session;

10 receiving session keys from both the remote device and the viewing device; and

establishing the screen sharing session in response to receiving the session keys.

15 81. The apparatus of claim 80, wherein the session keys are made available by providing the session keys directly to the remote device and to the viewing device.

82. The apparatus of claim 80, wherein the session 20 keys are made available by posting the session keys on a Web page.

83. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein hosting comprises directing communications transmitted during the screen sharing session to one of multiple hosts.

5 84. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein hosting comprises changing capabilities associated with the screen sharing session dynamically in response to a change in the screen sharing condition.

10 85. The apparatus of claim 84, wherein changing comprises terminating the screen sharing session or reducing an amount of control over the remove device provided via the screen sharing session.

15 86. An apparatus comprising circuitry to:  
output an indication to a host device that a screen sharing condition has occurred; and  
establish a screen sharing session via the host device, the screen sharing session comprising:  
20 receiving user inputs via the host device; and  
providing graphics changes to the host device.

87. The apparatus of claim 86, wherein the indication comprises an alarm condition indicative of a problem.

88. The apparatus of claim 86, wherein the indication  
5 comprises time data.

89. The apparatus of claim 86, wherein the screen sharing session is established by:

obtaining a session key made available by the host  
10 device; and

providing the session key to the host device.

90. The apparatus of claim 86, wherein information relating to the screen sharing session is transmitted via  
15 the host device using HTTP.

91. The apparatus of claim 86, wherein the user inputs comprise mouse data and keyboard data and the graphics changes comprise updates that occurred since transmitting a  
20 previous graphics change.

92. An apparatus comprising circuitry to:

receive an indication from a remote device that a screen sharing condition has occurred; and establish a screen sharing session with the remote device via the host device;

5 wherein all communications with the remote device associated with the screen sharing session, aside from the indication, are via the host device.

93. The apparatus of claim 92, wherein the indication  
10 comprises an alarm condition indicative of a problem.

94. The apparatus of claim 92, wherein the indication comprises time data.

15 95. The apparatus of claim 92, wherein the screen sharing session is established by:

obtaining a session key made available by the host device; and  
providing the session key to the host device.

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96. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the circuitry generates a report relating to the screen sharing session.

97. The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the circuitry comprises at least one of programmable logic, a processor, a memory, and logic gates.

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98. The apparatus of claim 86, wherein the circuitry comprises at least one of programmable logic, a processor, a memory, and logic gates.

10 99. The apparatus of claim 86, wherein the circuitry comprises at least one of programmable logic, a processor, a memory, and logic gates.

100. A method, performed by a remote device, of  
15 controlling a screen sharing session with a viewing device,  
the method comprising:

receiving information from the viewing device; and  
determining if the viewing device is permitted to  
enter into a screen sharing session with the remote device;  
20 wherein, if the viewing device is permitted to enter  
into a screen sharing session with the remote device, the  
method further comprises controlling the screen sharing

session between the remote device and the viewing device based on a state of the remote device.

101. A machine-readable medium that stores executable  
5 instructions to control a screen sharing session between a  
remote device a viewing device, the instructions causing  
the remote device to:

receive information from the viewing device;  
determine if the viewing device is permitted to enter  
10 into a screen sharing session with the remote device; and  
control the screen sharing session between the remote  
device and the viewing device based on a state of the  
remote device if the viewing device is permitted to enter  
into a screen sharing session with the remote device.

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102. An apparatus to control a screen sharing session  
with a viewing device, the apparatus comprising circuitry  
to:

receive information from the viewing device;  
determine if the viewing device is permitted to enter  
20 into a screen sharing session with the apparatus; and  
control the screen sharing session between the

apparatus and the viewing device based on a state of the apparatus if the viewing device is permitted to enter into a screen sharing session with the apparatus.